

## Editorials.

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### REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF HOSPITAL ABUSE.

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The Ontario Medical Association, in 1899, appointed a committee, with Dr. D. J. Wilson, as its chairman, to report on the question of the abuse of the hospital privileges by patients. The report of the committee was submitted and adopted at the meeting in June of this year. It is an excellent report, and should find the support of all the hospitals throughout the Province. The report deals specially with those cases which pay the hospital charge of \$2.80 per week, and then receive free attendance. The recommendation of the committee is that only those who are sent into the hospitals as paupers should receive free attendance. In like manner, patients paid for by lodges, corporations and companies, should not receive gratuitous treatment by the physician or surgeon. This is sound. Hospitals, which do anything that might deprive the profession of its proper fee, are not working on right lines, and should revise their methods.

The report recommends that the greatest care should be taken with regard to outdoor patients. It is notorious that very many seek treatment at the different dispensaries and outdoor departments who are quite able to pay some fee. They should be taught that free medical attendance, like any other free aid, is only for the destitute poor. In the case of emergency hospital, only "first aid" should be given. In all cases the patient should be handed over at once to the regular attendant.

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PREVALENCE OF CANCER.—Roger Williams, of Bristol (*Med. Press and Cir.*, Sept. 19th), maintains that the tendency to cancer might be increased by unsuitable modes of living, and that hyper-nutrition was the key to the cancer problem. This view is borne out by the fact that cancer is most frequent in the wealthiest countries. In France and England, where the people were exceptionally well nourished, the disease was increasing with the greatest rapidity. In France, in 1876, the death rate from cancer was 7.6 per 10,000 living; in 1895 it had gone up to 10 in the same number. In England, in 1850, the mortality was 2.9 on the same basis, now it was 7.5. In countries and districts where the method of life is simple, and